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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/390,299	09/03/1999	TOMIYA SASAKI	0039-7343-3S	6676

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1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

SONG, HOON K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2882

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/390,299

Applicant(s)

SASAKI, TOMIYA

Examiner

Hoon Song

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 28 May 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The phrase "substantial portion" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear what portion of the electrical member is disposed in a lower half of the space.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKenna (US 5499415).

Regarding claim 17, McKenna teaches a gantry of an X-ray computer tomography apparatus comprising:

An x-ray tube (figure 2);

An X-ray detector (figure 2);

A rotation ring mounting said x-ray tube and said x-ray detector (figure 2);

A ring frame rotatably supporting said rotation ring (figure 2);

A base (figure 2);

A plurality of main posts vertically mounted on said base and supporting said ring frame such that said rotation ring is positioned between said main posts (figure 2); and

A plurality of blocks (22) positioned between said main posts and configured to reinforce said main posts under the rotation ring.

However McKenna fails to teach that the blocks are triangle blocks but teaches a triangle block (gusset, 66) support a plate (64).

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Although McKenna fails to teach the triangle gusset (66) is supporting the main posts, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the triangle gusset to support the main posts because solid prop is stronger than rod prop. Accordingly, one would be motivated to adopt the triangle gusset to support the main posts because it would provide stronger supporting power.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-16 are allowed over prior art.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: None of the prior art teaches or suggests a gantry of an x-ray CT apparatus comprising a plurality of props extending obliquely between main posts for reinforcing the main posts under the rotation ring and at least one electric member positioned in at least one of space surrounded by a base, main posts and props such that at least one electric member is disposed in a lower half portion of a respective one of the spaces, said at least one electric member including at least one of a power source unit to generate driver power to rotate said rotating ring and tilt said ring frame, a scan control unit configured to control a rotating operation of said rotation ring and a detection operation of a x-ray detector and a transmission unit configured to externally output a signal detected by said x-ray detector as claimed in independent claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hoon Song whose telephone number is 703-308-2736. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Glick can be reached on 703-308-4858. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Hoon Song
August 5, 2003



DAVID V. BRUCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER